



NEWSLETTER: AUTUMN EDITION

April 2023 WARD 60

www.sybrandparkcivic.co.za

Email: sybrandparkcivicassoc@gmail.com



Chairperson's message: Imtiaz A. Adams

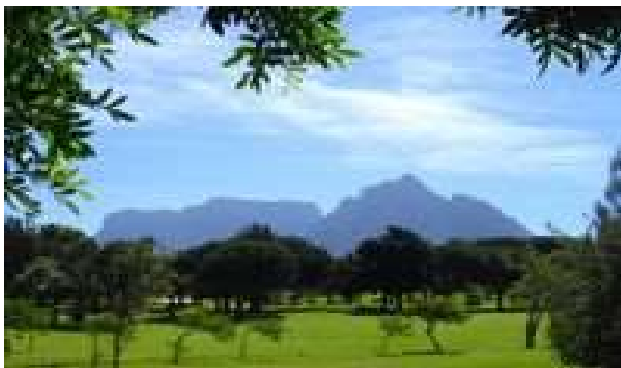
Dear **Sybies**

Our Executive have eased back into our 'normal' stride of monthly meetings post Covid-19. In fact, we have met more frequently considering the walk-about inspections as well as informal engagements of Task-teams involved in specific projects as identified by our ExCo. Whilst I laud the efforts of the City at service delivery-with special focus on reducing load-shedding, we remain alert to the ageing / failing infrastructure within Sybrand Park. Yes, we desperately need a complete overhaul of our electricity, sewage & drainage, as well as focal points of security upgrade (*the Prasa fence being a case-in-point*)! I acknowledge that some of these are medium to long term projects; hence we remain patient. In this regard, our last ExCo meeting had as its major agenda item a **list of priorities** as identified for our suburb.

We pray for the speedy recovery of our Councillor, Mark Kleinschmidt, who suffered a stroke earlier this year. Albeit this setback, the Cllr 'forced' himself to attend to his duties by providing support to Sybrand Park (and the rest of his constituency). He attended our March 2023 ExCo meeting and received our '*list of priorities*'. A warm word of welcome to all new families who have joined our neighbourhood- I trust that you will have a safe and pleasant stay in our fantastic suburb. Your Civic Association is active; refreshed and re-invigorated. I call on all **Sybies** to support the group of volunteers sacrificing their time and energy to make Sybrand Park a pleasant and safe suburb.

Through Passover, Ramadan, Hanuman, Jayanti, and Easter, we celebrate unique traditions and beliefs, as well as our shared values of family and community. Let us embrace this rare convergence and reflect on our common humanity, promoting empathy, compassion, and understanding for all. ***Let's work together towards good neighbourliness in our suburb.*** The successful *Iftaar* held last week [7th April] is a beautiful manifestation of our neighbours taking the initiative to forge and to maintain good relationships in S.P. Your ExCo remains committed to engage with all residents in trying to provide a pleasant and safe environment. Please follow our news on all platforms and look out for the next **AGM** which should take place shortly. [Tentative date is towards the end of May 2023 as the ExCo is in recess until after Ramadan]. Also, watch this space for the details of our **Summer Fair** later this year!

Towards engaging citizenry, Imtiaz



Please pay your Annual Subscriptions!

A call to the community to pay their Civic association levies... pay it and contribute to a **vibrant and thriving community**. Read below and page 3.

Sybrand Park Civic Association levies are important for a few reasons.

1. Funding community events: Many civic associations organize community events like volunteer projects. These events bring people together and help build a sense of community. Subscriptions are often used to fund these events and ensure they can continue to be held in the future. For example, we plan to hold a **Sybies** market day later in 2023. Other events are also planned. This can only be achieved through your support.
2. Advocating for the community: Civic associations often serve as a voice for the community, advocating for issues that affect residents such as traffic safety, zoning changes, and environmental concerns. Subscriptions can help fund these efforts and ensure that the community's voice is heard.

Paying your civic association subscription is important because it helps fund community events, support local businesses, and advocate for the community. It is a way to invest in your community and help ensure that it remains a vibrant and desirable place to live.

We will keep the community continually informed about the progress and impact of the projects and events that the subscription is supporting. We will provide regular updates through newsletters and our new Sybrand Park website, social media, or community meetings. The Civic Treasurer tables financial statements each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

I encourage people to pay their civic association subscription and contribute to a vibrant and thriving community.

SYBRAND PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION- BANKING DETAILS

Name: Sybrand Park Civic Association

Bank: Nedbank

Branch: Pinelands (104-709)

Type: Cheque/Current- Account Number: **107 323 8385**

Please pay your subscription of only R100.00 per year [per household] Use your Street Address as reference.



PORTFOLIOS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2023:

EXCO MEMBER	POSITION / PORTFOLIO	SPECIFIC / ADDITIONAL PORTFOLIO
Adams, Imtiaz	Chairperson	Ward Forum Liaison
Hill, Richard	Vice Chairperson 1	Trees & Environs / CoCT Service delivery
Minnaar, Keith	Vice Chairperson 2	Golf Club Liaison / Land use & Transport
Antvorskov, Shahieda	Treasurer	Park & Field Monitoring / CoCT Service delivery
Melly, Pat	Greater Ct Civic Alliance Rep	Website Management / Friends Of The Rivers
Du Toit, Fuad	Media	ICT & Media / Social media
George, James	Publications	POPIA Compliance / Newsletter / Website
Johnson, Belinda	Secretary	Enviro & Conservation Friends Of The River
Zivia Mohamed	Assistant Secretary	Catering & Refreshments
Hoffman, Claire	Police Sector Representative	Catering & Refreshments

Updating our Constitution with the mandate obtained at the 2022 AGM. Our Constitution is dynamic and remains in touch with new developments and challenges facing our Suburb; as well as within the broader community...

The **CONSTITUTION of the 'Sybrand Park Civic Association'** aims to ensure that all residents live in a relaxed, well-served, secure and safe neighbourhood. The Association is non-political, non-sexist, non-racial, and religiously and culturally accommodating. Revisions to the Constitution were approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 10 April 2021. The updated Constitution can be found at: www.sybrandparkcivic.co.za

Key changes to the Constitution involve (1) membership; (2) annual fees; (3) the holding of virtual meetings, and (4) the requirements of the Protection of Personal Information Act.

1) Membership is open to all adults who have lived in the area for 3 months. The Annual Membership Subscription includes two fee options:

(i) R50 per adult person (18 years of age or older), or

(ii) R100 per household which gives membership to all adults in a household.

The Association depends on subscriptions to continue our work.

2) Account Details: Nedbank- Pinelands (104-709); Current- Account Number: 107 323 8385

[See Insert regarding payment of subscriptions below]

Subscriptions should be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the Association's bank account using as identifier the house number and street name of the subscribing person or household. Residents who have paid should send a follow-up email to the Treasurer of the Association, Shahieda Antvorskov shahieda@finnweld.co.za indicating the full names of the persons living at the street address for whom the fee has been paid.

3) In response to the Covid pandemic, the Constitution has been modified to allow electronic meetings. The AGM and monthly meetings are currently face-to-face meetings - implementing all Covid protocols – occasionally supplemented by Zoom meetings for those who want to attend virtually.

4) Members may be requested to provide limited personal information and contact details. Access to such information shall be restricted to members of the Executive Committee of the Association who shall ensure that the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013, are upheld. Members shall be made aware of what information is being collected and how it will be used. The 'Security Safeguards' of Clause 19 of the Act shall be strictly upheld to prevent the loss of, or unlawful access to, the personal information provided by members.

MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST - Keep these numbers easily accessible

Accounts & Enquiries	0860 104 089	Emergency [From Mobile]	107
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	0800 435 748	Solid Waste	0860 103 089
Ambulance	10177	Disaster Management	021 597 5000
Cable Theft	0800 222 771	Housing	021 376 1313
Electricity Services	0860 103 089	SAPS	10111
Electricity Services SMS	31220	Metro Police & Traffic	0860 765 423
Electricity Services Email	Power@capetown.gov.za	Transport, Roads & Stormwater	0860 65 64 63
Emergency [From Landline]	021 480 7700	Water & Sanitation	0860 103 089
Clr Mark Kleinschmidt Ward 60 Cell: 082 572 2562		Water & sanitation SMS	31373

Some of the main issues dealt with by the Sybrand Park Civic Association the past year:

- Continued support and cooperation with our Neighbourhood Watch- towards **increased safety in our area**
- Soccer Field Lease to Star College; **park upgrade and safety**
- **Park rehabilitation and upgrade to commence shortly.**
- Relieving traffic congestion Star College; Installation of road calming measures to reduce speeding on other roads
- **Beautification of our area**; trimming of trees; cleaning up along railway line; security at subway; etc.

- Communication with Rondebosch Golf Club: lease, security issues, trimming of tress, the fixing of fencing along the perimeter.
- Approval of developments, constructions, etc. [[spatial development](#)] in Sybrand Park.
- Ward forum representation; [promoting interests of Sybrand Park at regular Ward 60 Forum meetings](#).
- Effective and efficient logging of [Service Calls](#). Calling on all residents to be vigilant as regards service delivery. [A list of full contact numbers are available on our website](#).

Some of the main issues raised with by the Sybrand Park Civic Association:

Sybrand Park Neighbourhood Improvement

Below is the list of issues/concerns/improvements as provided by the members of this committee and some of our residents. Your Civic will be working on some of these. **We have already secured a R200,000 commitment by the City to upgrade the Prieska Road Park. Works are set to commence shortly.**

Security

- Fixing dilapidated station, subway and fence line along the railway
- Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras

Traffic – congestion caused by schools in the area

- Parking embayment
- Speed humps in Eike
- Ongoing problem of taxis during rush hour on the Golf Course stretch

Park and sports field

- Upgrade of existing children's play equipment
- Fitness exercise equipment
- Additional trees
- Star College to honour the MoU in upgrading the soccer field.

Field adjacent to the river- end of Elgin and Geluks

- What are the plans for this site?
- Cleaning of the litter not just in the river and immediately adjacent, talking about the whole area
- Beautification required.

Electricity and supply to the area

- There has been several repeat outages outside loadshedding that need to be resolved. The Electricity infrastructure in the area has had numerous breaker trips at the local substation.
- Maintenance
- Follow-ups to sewerage issues/pumps.

River maintenance and sewerage

- City and RGC needs to address the maintenance and cleaning of the rivers.
- Lack of warning notices on the banks of the river re water quality
- Stench from current spill has been unbearable at times. What is the City doing to prevent reoccurrence after reoccurrence?

Beautification

- Cleaning of litter in the park

- Grass cutting
- Tree planting and maintenance

NEW DYNAMIC WEBSITE FOR SYBRAND PARK LAUNCHED- News, weather, community projects, security, dam levels, loadshedding, key contact numbers, City alerts...WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

Visit us on the web at www.sybrandparkcivic.co.za -A new, dynamic **website** for the Sybrand Park Civic Association (SPCA). Also please **LIKE US** on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/737490606329213>

Polyphagous Shothole Borer (PSHB) beetle doing the rounds



The full article can currently be found on the Sybrand Park homepage via www.sybrandparkcivic.co.za

By *Patrick Melly*

This beetle comes from southeast Asia. It was first noticed in 2017 in KZN. It is now found in all provinces except Limpopo. In Cape Town it was first noticed in Somerset West but has now also been found in **Newlands, Rondebosch, and Mowbray**. It is not known why but South Africa is the most infested country outside of south-east Asia.

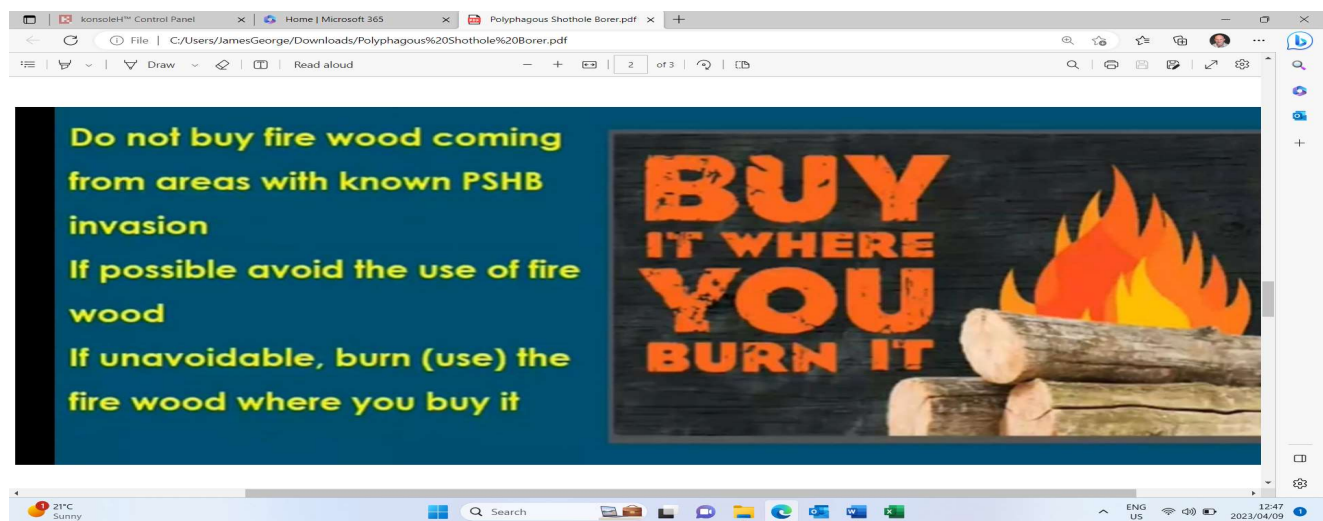
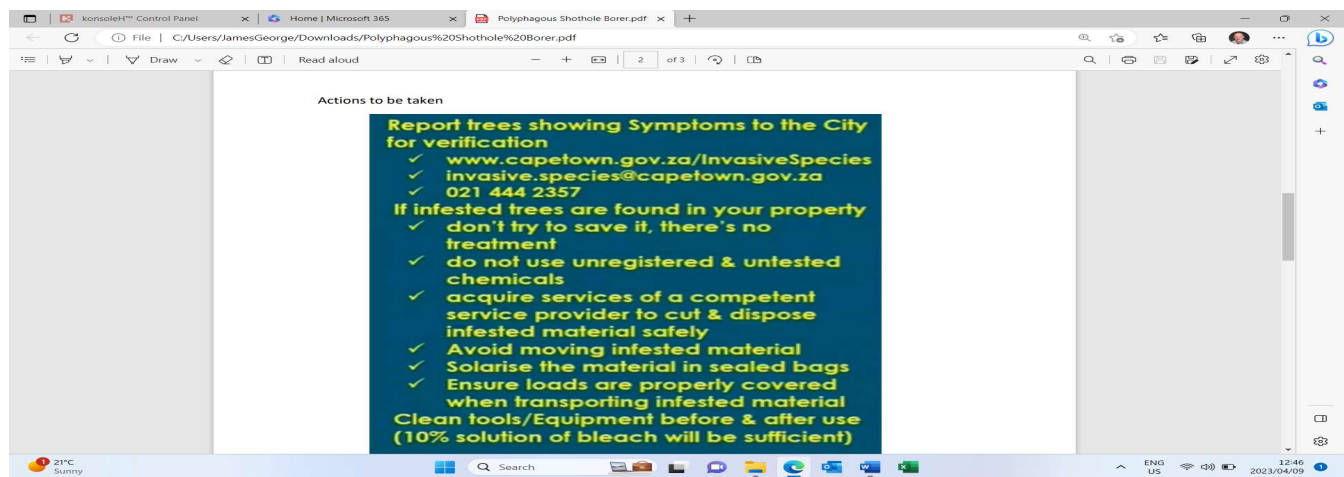
The beetle has a symbiotic relationship with the fungus 'Fusarium euwallaceae'. This causes branch die-back and kills susceptible trees. All trees must be regarded as vulnerable. Ongoing research might find that some trees are not or less vulnerable. It is estimated that the beetle has the potential to cause damage of at least R275 billion to the South African economy. How does the beetle spread? This happens in several ways.

- It is airborne. In Somerset West it was found that areas sheltered from the wind were free of the beetle.
- Children and workers climbing trees spread the beetle via their clothing and footwear
- Transport of infected firewood, tree cuttings and timber.

- Tree cutting and other horticultural equipment including ropes and ladders that have not been sanitised after and before use.
- Cuttings that have not been disposed of safely. How to tell whether a tree is infected
- There will be a dieback of branches
- The tree will exude a sugary substance
- Excessive gumming on the outside

What to do and not to do if you have an infected tree

There is no chemical agent that can kill the beetle. Once a tree is infected it is doomed. Do not try to save the tree. In order to reduce the spread of the beetle, once infestation has been confirmed by a specialist Arborist, the tree should be felled as soon as possible. An infested tree becomes a dangerous tree. Thousands of tunnels are bored weakening limbs and trunk, when they break nasty accidents can occur.



The PSHB is a small, dark brown beetle that is approximately 2mm in length. The female beetle burrows into trees to lay her eggs, and the larvae then feed on the tree's inner tissues, causing damage and eventually killing the tree. The PSHB is a serious threat to many tree species, including avocado, oak, sycamore, and willow.

The PSHB is difficult to control because it is highly polyphagous, which means it feeds on a wide range of host trees. In addition, the beetle is difficult to detect because it burrows into the tree, making it hard to see from the outside.

Efforts to control the spread of PSHB include monitoring and trapping programs, as well as the removal and destruction of infested trees. Quarantine measures are also in place to prevent the movement of infected plant material from one area to another.

It is important to be vigilant and report any sightings of the PSHB or signs of infestation, such as small holes in tree trunks or branches and sawdust-like material around the base of trees. Early detection and rapid response are essential for preventing the spread of this destructive beetle.

Latest from the City on the Beetle

The City of Cape Town has issued a list of 28 recommended trees for those residents who want to replace trees on their properties that are infested with the invasive Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) beetle. Planting an indigenous tree or non-invasive exotic tree, suitable to our climate and the specific site, will assist in mitigating the impact of the beetle best on Cape Town's urban forest. To date, the borer beetle has been sighted in the Helderberg area, and most recently in Newlands, Rondebosch, Mowbray, Claremont, Kenilworth and in Observatory along the Liesbeek River.

The list of recommended trees includes indigenous and mostly locally indigenous species, that are not reproductive host trees, meaning to date, the PSHB has not been sighted in these trees. The non-invasive exotic trees on the list are allowed in urban areas, such as residential gardens.

SNIPPETS

Cleanliness & Maintenance Residents can report street light outages, green bins that need emptying, bushes and trees that need cutting, potholes, dumping, grass that needs cutting, etc. at https://eservices1.capetown.gov.za/coct/wapl/zsreq_app/index.html

Community spirit Please send news of any community-oriented projects to james@compliserve.co.za so that we can highlight them in future newsletters. Please also let me know of any random acts of kindness which you might have received or witnessed! If you have any ideas around the website we would also like to hear from you.

We always have seats at the table for anyone that would like to join the Civic. Please send us a mail and we will be in touch with you.

Electricity pre-paid meters The City of Cape Town reminds residents that software for all prepaid electricity meters in South Africa will expire in 2024. Prepaid metering software must be updated or customers won't be able to recharge their meters with new tokens; and will be left without power supply. The City is following a phased approach. Area by area is being earmarked for updating. Customers in a specific area will receive two update codes with their purchase when their time comes. If the City has not reached an area, and customers have not received the update codes with their electricity purchase, they are not yet due for the update. The City requires some time to reach your area and requires you to wait until you see the codes with your purchase. Eligible customers will notice they are due for the update when they make a purchase and see the update codes. City teams will be on standby in these areas in March and April 2023 to assist customers if required.

Customers in Athlone, Manenberg and Kenilworth are reminded that they are able to update their electricity meters until 30 April 2023. Residents are urged to help their family members with their updates where possible, particularly elderly family members and those with disabilities. Alternatively, residents are encouraged to call the City's Call Centre on 0860 103 089 for assistance.

When making a purchase, customers will receive two **20-digit update codes** along with their usual prepaid token. **Customers who do not live in the area that is currently earmarked for updating will not be eligible to update their meters yet and will not automatically receive update codes with their normal purchase until their time comes.** Update codes will be issued with purchases in areas across the Metro in phases in accordance with the area schedule.

Customers may follow these easy steps to enter the update codes when their area is scheduled for the update:

1. Enter the first **20-digit update code** and wait for it to accept.
2. Enter the second **20-digit update code** and wait for it to accept.
3. Enter the **usual 20-digit token** to recharge units as normal.

SAVING LIVES WITH SECOND HAND GOODS Every box or bag of household goods you donate are resold in [ARO's](#) Charity Shop and the funds generated can cover a sterilisation for either a dog or cat, in need.

<https://harfield-village.co.za/blogs/saving-lives-with-second-hand-goods/> First appeared on the Harfield Village site.

SOME SECURITY TIPS FOR SYBRAND PARK Here are some top security tips for a suburb:

Install security cameras: Security cameras can help deter criminals and provide evidence if a crime does occur. Install cameras at strategic points around the neighbourhood, such as at the entrances and exits.

Join the SP neighbourhood Watch programme: A neighbourhood watch programme can help residents keep an eye out for suspicious activity and report it to the authorities. This can help deter criminals and improve safety in the area.

Install outdoor lighting: Well-lit areas can discourage criminals from attempting to commit crimes. Install outdoor lighting in common areas such as parks, playgrounds, and parking lots.

Keep your home and property well-maintained: A well-maintained property can help deter criminals. Keep your lawn trimmed, bushes and trees pruned, and make sure your home looks well-cared for.

Secure your home: Make sure your home is secure by installing slide bolts on all exterior doors and windows, and use security bars or grills on windows that are easily accessible.

Be cautious about sharing personal information: Don't share personal information, such as your address or phone number, with strangers or on social media.

Stay connected with your neighbours: Building strong relationships with your neighbours can help improve safety in your community. Get to know your neighbours and work together to keep your neighborhood safe.

Be aware of your surroundings: When walking or driving through your neighbourhood, be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity to the SPNW Crime Alert Whatsapp Group and the authorities.

Keep valuables out of sight: Don't leave valuable items, such as laptops or purses, visible in your car or home. This can attract criminals.

Practice good online safety habits: Protect yourself online by using strong passwords, avoiding suspicious emails or links, and keeping your antivirus software up-to-date.